(a) whether it is a fact that recently details of the confidential accounts and passports of British Nationals had been leaked by an officer of an Indian Business process Outsourcing company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister has emphasised the need to make the IT law more stringent to maintain the credibility of IT Industry; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to take the suggestions in this regard from the IT companies and to enact the laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Indian BPO in IT sector is a de-licensed activity. The BPO operations are governed by a legal contract between the parties. Government does not directly regulate such activities. A report had appeared on June 23, 2005 in The sun (UK), resulting from an investigation by their reporter, about the alleged sale of customer data by an employee of a call center near Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) the following steps are being taken:

— Revisiting the IT Act 2000 and Introduction of amendments, if any, to the If Act 2000 that will provide stringent measures against the Criminals. An expert committee has been set up for this purpose.

— Training and supporting Indian Law enforcement agencies to ensure that they are well equipped to tackle cyber crimes.

— Establishment of a register of IT professionals by NASSCOM to ensure that only suitable staff is employed in the Industry.

Issue of debit cards by Postal Department

350. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department is planning to issue debit cards for the benefit of their account holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when these cards are likely to be issued;

(d) whether any special benefits are likely to be provided to exclusive groups like citizens, women, BPL card holders, etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Department of Posts intends to introduce anytime anywhere banking for the Post Office Savings Bank account holders in which debit cards may be issued to the customers to do the transactions. However, it is in a conceptual stage and details have not been worked out and it is also not possible now to indicate a time frame.

NASSCOM recommendations on India's Cyber Laws

351. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to bring the Indian cyber laws at par with the global standards and make them fool-proof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NASSCOM engaged a group of law firms in India, UK and USA to look into the whole gamut of cyber laws in India;

(c) if so, whether the group has submitted its report of recommendations;

(d) whether Government have studied those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the outcome of study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) An Expert Committee had been set up under the Chairmanship of secretary, Department of Information Technology (DIT)to review the legal framework and propose amendments in Information Technology Act, 2000, if required, to adhere to global standards.